

Andrew Jackson to Soldiers, April 2, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

PROCLAMATION BY JACKSON.1

1 Copy.

Fort Williams, 2 April 2, 1814.

2 Jackson returned to Fort Williams after the battle to place his wounded in a place of security and to get supplies. After resting there five days he again marched southward and reached Huhliwahli on Apr. 14. He expected to fight there his hardest battle, but, on his arrival, the Indians had crossed the Tallapoosa, some going to Florida and others wandering in the forest for days until starvation forced them to come in and surrender unconditionally.

To the Officers and Soldiers who have lately returned from the expedition to the Tallapoosa.

Fellow Soldiers: You have entitled yourselves to the gratitude of your General and your Country. The expedition from which you have just returned, has by your good conduct, been rendered prosperous beyond any example in the history of our warfare. It has redeemed the character of Tennessee, and of that description of troops of which the greater part of the army was composed.

You have in a few days opened your way to the Tallapoosa, and destroyed a confederacy of the enemy, ferocious by nature, and grown insolent by the impunity with which they had so long committed their depredations. Relying on their numbers the security of their situation, and the assurances of their prophets they derided, our approach and already

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exulted in anticipation of the victory they hoped to obtain over us. They knew not what brave men could effect, when they came to chastise an insolent foe. Barbarians they were ignorant of the influence of civilization and of government, over the human powers. They hoped to frighten us by their yells and to oppose our progress by fortifications of wood. Stupid mortals, their yells only designate their numbers and their situation with the more certainty, and their walls became a snare for their own destruction. So it must ever be when presumption and ignorance, contend against bravery and prudence. The fiends of the Tallapoosa will no longer murder our Women and Children, or disturb the quiet of our borders. Their midnight flambeaux will no more illumine their Council house, or shine upon the victim of their infernal orgies. They have disappeared from the face of the Earth. In their places a new generation will arise who will know their duties better. The weapons of warfare will be exchanged for the utensils of husbandry; and the wilderness which now withers in sterility and seems to mourn the disolation which overspreads it, will blossom as the rose, and become the nursery of the arts. But other chastisements remain to be inflicted before this happy day can arise. How lamentable it is that the path to peace should lead through blood, and over the carcasses of the slain!! But it is in the dispensation of that providence, which inflicts partial evil, to produce general good.

Our enemy are not sufficiently humble'd since they do not sue for peace, a collection of their forces again await our approach and remain to be dispersed. Buried in ignorance and seduced by their prophets, they have the weakness to believe, they shall still be able to maintain a stand against our arms. We must undeceive them, they must be made to atone for their obstinacy and their crimes by still farther suffering. The hopes which have so long deluded them, must be driven from their last refuge. They must be made to know that their prophets are impostors, and that our strength is mighty and will prevail. Then and not till then may we hope for a lasting and beneficial peace. It is ordered by the commanding General that an extra ration be issued to the troops.